SUSTAINABLE FOOD

GLOBAL CHALLENGE
A growing world population, combined with rising income levels, are enormous challenges for our global food system, with climate change further aggravating the situation. The existing food system with a focus on large-scale mono-cropping of maize, wheat and rice is eroding ecosystems and crop diversity globally and reducing diversity on our plates. Although there is sufficient food in the world to feed all, there are still 900 million hungry people. In addition, more than one billion people worldwide are overweight and obese, and another two billion are suffering from micronutrient deficiencies. Global dietary patterns have changed dramatically over the past 50 years. Today, many people are consuming foods high in meat, dairy, oil, salt and sugar that pose negative impacts on their health and the environment. Problems affect local communities in the South as well as consumers and agribusinesses around the globe.

SMART SOLUTIONS
In our vision we need a radical rethinking, recognising ecosystems as the basic foundation of societies and economies. But we also need to put citizens centre stage to build a new food system. Seeds of the required transformation are emerging worldwide, in local communities, small enterprises launching sustainable food products, through stronger producer–consumer linkages and progressive companies and governments setting ambitious sustainability targets. Hivos works with these innovators to generate change at both the producer and consumer side. We invest in small and medium eco- and people-friendly enterprises and strengthen the capacity of financial institutions to develop green financial products.

ABOUT HIVOS
Hivos is an international organisation that seeks new solutions to persistent global issues. With smart projects in the right places, we oppose discrimination, inequality, abuse of power and the unsustainable use of our planet’s resources. Hivos works towards a green society that has no expiry date. A society powered by renewable energy, where everyone has sufficient, nutritious and affordable food.
CREATE COALITIONS OF THE WILLING
Our second strategy is to create coalitions of the willing. We engage with producers, governments, private sector and civil society organisations to create resilient and diverse regions and cities. In cooperation with IIED, and the Kabarole Research Centre (KRC), we initiated a Food Innovation lab in Fort Portal, Uganda to address the future of food and nutrition security in the city and its rural hinterland. The Mayor of Fort Portal is creating this political moment and supports KRC to co-create innovations with unusual suspects, from street vendors and schoolchildren, to artists and journalists. Beyond technology, these innovations can be new public policies, business models or consumer behaviour.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DIETS
Our third strategy is to work with civil society organisations to influence the policies and practices of governments and private sector. The existing focus on large-scale mono-cropping of maize, wheat and rice is eroding crop diversity globally and reducing diversity on the plate. Sustainable diets are respectful of biodiversity and ecosystems, culturally acceptable, accessible, economically fair and affordable, nutritious, safe and healthy. A diverse food system builds on the productivity and nutrition potential of agricultural biodiversity in food systems rather than bringing diversity into the hands of a few corporations. It enables women and men to use and develop their knowledge to further improve the diversity in production and consumption systems. Diversity on the farm = diversity on the plate.

INVESTING IN WOMEN
Women play a key role in our food system. They produce most of the food crops in the developing world and decide about the food consumption in their families. But women have much less access to information, resources, finance and markets. Hivos supports awareness raising and empowerment of women to create more demand for healthy and sustainable food and to increase the access to markets and supply of these products.

URBAN FOOD SECURITY
In 2050 more than two-third of the global population will live in cities. Well-managed cities can provide access to high-quality nutritious food, social services and environmental services to their populations. In La Paz, Bolivia and Bandung, Indonesia, Hivos works with partner organisations, local governments and relevant food actors such as street vendors, entrepreneurs and cooks to improve local food and nutrition security.

HIVOS IS LOOKING FOR OTHER PARTNERS TO CO-CREATE AND IMPLEMENT THE SUSTAINABLE FOOD AGENDA
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